

INFORMATION REPORT ~~SECRET~~

COUNTRY Hungary

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1. In 1947 the strength of the Hungarian army, including officers, was 12,000. This figure was increased at the beginning of 1948 to 17,000. Since then no figures are available.
2. According to official estimates, however, the number of trained men as of June 1948, was 70,000. The age groups 1923 - 1930, apart from the 1944 mobilization, have never been called up as a body, though a few have received training. For instance, 5,000 from the 1926 class were called up during the summer of 1948.
3. Exemption from military service is readily granted because of the priority given to reconstruction, industrial development and various Communist reforms.
4. The Provincial headquarters of the Hungarian Workers Party play a large part in the selection of suitable volunteer recruits for the Army. With a few rare exceptions, no "intellectuals" are accepted. Recruits are given two to three months basic infantry training at Pilis or Harosziget.
5. After basic training, promising recruits are sent to the Kossuth Officers Academy where they undergo a three years training course; this course was four years before the war.
6. The nucleus of the present Hungarian officer corps was selected from among Hungarian P's in the Soviet Union by exiled Hungarian Communist leaders such as Erno Gero and Zoltan Vas. A number of the present Generals were only Lieutenants or Captains during the war.
7. Non-specialist officers without Communist background or affiliations who served in the regular army before or during the war are only retained in service up to the rank of Captain. Specialist officers of this category are retained up to the rank of Colonel.
8. The prime mover in the organizing of the present Hungarian army General Gyorgy Palfy-Osterreicher, whose official designation is Head of the Political-Military Department. He maintains the closest liaison with the Soviet authorities on military affairs, and makes frequent visits to Moscow.

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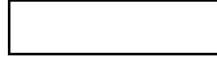
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9. There are, however, no Soviet instructors or staff officers with the Hungarian forces and no instruction is given to Hungarian military personnel in the Soviet Union

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